

Summer 6-15-1998

ENG 3703-001: 20th Century American Literature

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Recommended Citation

Whitlow, Roger, "ENG 3703-001: 20th Century American Literature" (1998). *Summer 1998*. 12.
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English 3703

20th CENTURY AMERICAN LITERATURE

Course Purpose

The purpose of this course is to encourage you to read about, write about, and discuss penetratingly a topic that may be relatively new to you — about the 20th century-long representatives of American writing, varied in genre, style, topic, and purpose, and written by men and women of Caucasian, African-American, and Vietnamese-American decent. You will note that the reading and writing load is “moderate” (Don’t make the mistake of thinking it “easy”) — based on my deeply felt view that gorging 15-18 books (and expecting 5-10 papers in return) down students cannot possibly produce sound learning. You will have time to complete readings, digest ideas, and form careful opinions about how those ideas measure up against your own and how all of it sharpens your own concept of what you think and feel, and what you, as a developing human being, are and want to be.

There is no “class attendance” policy per se. However, since one-third of the grade for the course is based on your contribution to discussion of the material studied, if you are not in class, you are obviously not contributing — therefore, poor attendance clearly affects your grade.

If you have a disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.

Class Meetings

1. Introduction
2. Theories of Literature
3. Hemingway, A FAREWELL TO ARMS
4. “
5. “
6. Movie: Fitzgerald, “The Great Gatsby”
7. “
8. “
9. Steinbeck, THE GRAPES OF WRATH
10. “
11. “
12. Movie: Wright, “Native Son”
13. “
14. “
15. Miller, DEATH OF A SALESMAN
16. “
17. Mid-term exam
18. “
19. Brooks, pp. 1528-1532
20. “
21. Capote, IN COLD BLOOD
22. “
23. “
24. Gaines, OF LOVE AND DUST
25. “
26. Movie: Irving, “The World According to Garp”
27. “
28. “
29. Hayslip, WHEN HEAVEN AND EARTH CHANGED PLACES
30. “

(TAKE-HOME FINAL DUE)

Course Grade

Class discussion, 1/3
Mid-term exam, 1/3
Final exam, 1/3